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Meteor man offers major money for space rocks

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES
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METEOR A space cowboy from south of the border is offering big bucks for the first found pieces of giant rocks that fell to the earth last week.

Countless reports of fire in the sky northeast of Calgary Thursday evening, followed by an ear-gouging sonic boom, are proof enough for meteorite man Robert Haag.

"This is the coolest treasure hunt of the decade," he said. "It's going to cost the government nothing, and it's all about free enterprise."

The space rock collector is offering a cool $10,000 for the first piece recovered from the meteor.

"This is the coolest treasure hunt of the decade." Robert Haag

By talking with residents all through the area, he's certain it fell near the tiny town of Macklin, Sask., 100 kilometres south of Lloydminster.

He said that if the reward isn't enough motivation to get doubtful residents on the hunt, he'll up the ante.

"If nobody cares about it and it's not worth anything, then nobody will get up off their couch and keep watching Spongebob," he said.

"People don't often believe it. People often do nothing, and then a kid will get on his bike and ride for five minutes and find the equivalent of a brand new Corvette."

ShareYourViews
calgaryletters@metronews.ca

World pg 10

APEC leaders pledge quick economic aid

Tax hike hits biz

Small businesses 'hammered' by 19.2% raise

NEIL MACKINNON
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Small business owner Barry Matthews has crunched the numbers on the recent property tax hike and it's going to be a real fight to make sure no one loses their job at his city flower shop.

Others might not be so lucky.

"My bottom line is certainly going to take a major hit but I'm going to do absolutely everything I possibly can to make sure people don't lose their jobs," said the Red Rose Florist owner.

Matthews believes Calgary's property tax hike is especially disheartening for small businesses that shoulder a "disproportionate" load.

Small businesses in Calgary will pay around $668 more in property taxes by 2011 after city council approved a compounded 19.2 per cent tax hike last Thursday, jacking their bill up to an average of $4,149.

When an average $1,425 business tax is added, small businesses are expected to spill $5,574 into city coffers.

"It's a heavy, hard tax bill to shoulder and the answer for many may well be to lay people off." Danielle Smith

It's an "unfair burden" to those who employ up to 56 per cent of the population, says the Canadian Federation of Independent Business' Alberta director Danielle Smith, who thinks as many as one in five of Calgary's small businesses may have to lay people off.

"They're getting hammered from all sides," said Smith. "They're getting taxed once for owning the property and once more to live in it. It's a heavy, hard tax bill to shoulder and the answer for many may well be to lay people off."

TODD KOROL / REUTERS

Calgary Stampeders quarterback Henry Burris kisses the Grey Cup after his team defeated the Montreal Alouettes to win the CFL's 96th Grey Cup game in Montreal yesterday.

Stamps victorious with 22-14 Grey Cup win

DAN TOTH
for Metro Calgary

The Calgary Stampeders are flying home from Montreal today with a 99-year-old passenger — the Grey Cup.

The Stamps claimed the franchise's sixth Grey Cup title with a 22-14 win over the Montreal Alouettes, who were playing in front of 66,000 fans at home at Olympic Stadium.

Stamps quarterback Henry Burris, who was visibly shaken after not being named the Canadian Football League's Most Outstanding Player earlier in the week, earned the game's Most Valuable Player award.

Burris completed 28 of 37 passes for 328 yards while also rushing for 79 yards. Receiver Brett Ralph scored the team's only touchdown.

Sandro DeAngelis was good on all five field goal attempts to be named Most Valuable Canadian.

Fans are invited to meet the team at McMahon Stadium at 2 p.m.

MORE COVERAGE, PG. 3, 15.

Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Calgary. 120, 3030 - 3 Avenue NE, Calgary, Alberta T2A 6T7. Publisher: Steve Shrout

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Participating retailers: FUTURE SHOP BEST BUY

Tickets still available for Hairspray
The Broadway musical Hairspray is set to debut in Calgary tomorrow night at the Jubilee Auditorium. Tickets for the hit musical, running until Friday, are still available at www.ticketmaster.com. METRO CALGARY

Local

"We hope everyone will take a bit of their lunch hour to come to Olympic Plaza and say thank you to the Stampeders for a great season." Mayor Dave Bronconnier

The City of Calgary will honour its Grey Cup champs by hosting a noon-hour celebration at Olympic Plaza tomorrow starting at 11:45 a.m., with the team arriving at 12:30. Macleod Trail will be closed between 9 Ave and 6 Ave at 9 a.m. and will reopen by 3 p.m. METRO CALGARY

Tax aid sought for seniors

COUNCIL Seniors may feel less of a property tax pinch if Ald. Brian Pincott gets his way.

Pincott will table a motion today directing administration to find ways to ease the pain of a recently passed 19.2 per cent compounded property tax increase over the next three years on home-owning seniors.

While there are already two programs in place to assist seniors in tight financial circumstances surrounding property taxes, Pincott wants administration to survey other communities and report in March with additional measures.

METRO CALGARY

News in brief

BALLOTS Calgarians may be able to mail it in by 2010. In an effort to increase participation for groups ranging from the disabled to soldiers to out of town students, Ald. Ric McIver will table a motion today seeking to allow mail-in ballots as soon as the next municipal election.

METRO CALGARY

Revellers riding high

NEIL MACKINNON
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When lager and smoke weren't driving into Grant Painter's mouth, bullhorns full of encouragement were spewing out.

Packed into Kathie Aldridge's southeast home yesterday, about 50 people from a regular tailgater crowd, who haven't missed a game all season, were surrounded by a museum of autographed helmets, footballs and game worn jerseys and a smorgasbord of hot wings and even hotter chili.

Painter's crowd rousing, even if unintelligible at times, seemed to work as they attempted to will the Calgary Stampeders to their sixth Grey Cup in team history.

"You live and die by your team," said Painter, under a straw cowboy hat with black grease striped under his eyes. "I don't care if I come across as a loudmouth; we've got to win this thing."

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Filled with hot wings and chili, 50 Stamps fans packed Kathie Aldridge's home yesterday cheering the hometown team to victory. The Stamps will bring the CFL's championship trophy back to the city today.

Painter was among the first group of tailgaters to take to McMahon Stadium parking lots back in 1988 and every year the crowd doesn't migrate for the Grey Cup, they hunker down in front of a television set instead and are as loud as if they were there.

"It's nowhere near the same," said Bob Collins before pointing out a picture of himself smiling next to the big silver mug. "There's no way you can pack that much drinking and partying into one night, it takes a whole week to do that kind of damage to yourself.

"But this is fun, too."

The Stamps beat Montreal 22-14.

Collision victims identified

DEATHS Two people who died in separate road collisions earlier this month have been identified by the medical examiner. Steven Andrew Brown, 24, died in hospital after his motorcycle lost control on Anderson Road on Nov. 15. And on Nov. 12, Sonya Anne Isley, 44, died after a road grader collided with her at the Deerfoot Trail and Southland Drive ramp. METRO CALGARY

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Read Guidy Mamman's immigration column at metronews.ca/liv

Watch a meteor streak across the Alberta sky at metronews.ca/canada

Lotteries

Friday, Nov. 21
Lotto Super 7: 1, 15, 27, 38, 40, 43 & 44 Bonus 3
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These results are not official.

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Search continues into suspected gang-related shooting

Calgary Search and Rescue conducted a search of the Bow River along Centre Street on Saturday to look for more evidence from a suspected gang-related shooting last week after an earlier search turned up a firearm. METRO CALGARY

Student regrets kick a redhead plot

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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BULLYING One city student has regrets after joining an online group that raised hate crime concerns late last week.

A global Facebook group urged students to "kick a redhead" on Friday, an action that ended up in school suspensions and a police investigation in Calgary.

"I just thought it was funny and harmless when I joined (the online Kick A Ginger Day group), but I didn't know it would escalate to what it did," 15-year-old Rebecca told Metro.

Rebecca is withholding her last name for fear of her peers coming after her, but the Bishop Grandin Grade 10 student said she doesn't hate redheads.

"I just thought it was fun. Our friends were doing it. Then I saw a guy get kicked really hard in the stomach and later, on the news, I saw it was worse at other schools."

Students standing around watching are actually a symptom of the bigger problem, according to Calgary Board of Education spokesperson Ted Flitton.

"I don't think kids realize the consequences of doing nothing. They are actually perpetuating the problem. They need to stand up and let their peers know when something isn't right," Flitton said.

News in brief

ACCIDENT An elderly woman struck by a car on Friday died from her injuries this weekend. The 84-year-old woman was walking along Sirocco Drive SW when she was hit by a jeep. She died in hospital on Saturday. Her name has not yet been released.

METRO CALGARY

ROBIN KUNISKI / METRO CALGARY

Jessica Hill, 22, used her Sunday to get in some Christmas shopping, knowing that shoppers will be hitting the mall in droves with only 31 days left until Santa arrives.

31 days of shopping

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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With only 31 days left until Christmas, many shoppers are out at the stores in full force.

For some shoppers that's only two more pay cheques before the big day, but for others, that's still not enough.

"I don't think we'll be doing much Christmas shopping or gift-giving this year," said 39-year-old mom of three, Karen Birch.

"Other seasons were already tight but with the economy right now, I just don't think we can afford it."

While Birch knows there are others worse off than she and her family, she still says she wishes things were different.

"But that's OK. We will still have a few little things and dinner, just no shopping sprees this year."

Other shoppers, like 46-year-old mom Sherri Matthews, are still going full throttle.

"I think the economy does impact me but I still need to do the shopping and I will still buy the gifts. The only difference this year is normally I would be done by now but I haven't started yet," she added.

Wards get an extreme makeover

NEIL MACKINNON
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BOUNDARIES A necessary political redistribution could see two Calgary wards cuts in half, while another moves uptown.

The city's largest precincts, Ald. Jim Stevenson's Ward 3 and Ald. Ric McIver's Ward 12, will be cut in half under a proposed boundary shift that will be tabled for city council today, while Ald. Andre Chabot's Ward 10 will move from the east side of the city to the north.

Stevenson, noting an "unmanageable" ward size which has his staff regularly working unpaid overtime just to keep afloat, said it's a welcome move, but one that won't only change the map, but the political landscape as well.

"Some people may not run again, some people may run for mayor, some people who are aldermen right now might have to run against each other," Stevenson said.

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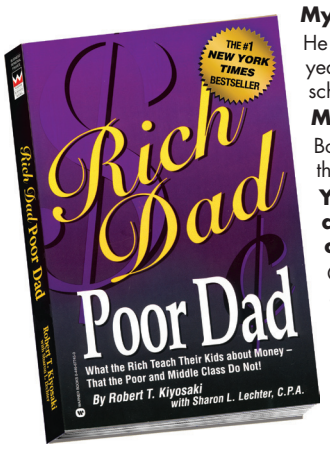

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5 survive plane crash in Manitoba

Five people, including a baby, escaped serious injury when a twin-engine medevac plane crash-landed and burst into flames in northern Manitoba on Saturday night. The Transportation Safety Board is investigating. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada

"The auto-sector demand alone could cause our deficit to dramatically balloon." **Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty**

Bailout

Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, left, has warned that giving taxpayers' money to support the auto sector could drive the province's deficit into dangerous territory. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Recession on horizon: PM

Canada could dip into a technical recession later this year or early 2009, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said yesterday, vowing to use fiscal stimulus if needed.

Harper told reporters at an Asia-Pacific leaders summit any stimulus package must be effective in boosting domestic consumption and stimulating investment, while avoiding the creation of long-term budget deficits.

"The most recent private-sector forecast suggests the strong possibility of a technical recession at the end of this year, beginning of next," he told a news conference in Lima.

This month, the IMF said Canada was the only developed country that it expected to post growth next year amid a widening global financial and economic crisis.

But Harper said rising deflationary pressures were a "worrying development" that required him to rethink temporarily his long-standing opposition to deficit spending.

REUTERS

Jim Flaherty

- Economists define recession as two consecutive quarters of contraction.
- Finance Minister Jim Flaherty echoed the PM, saying that the global crisis may have pushed Canada's economy into recession.

ANDY CLARK/REUTERS

Premier Gordon Campbell, centre, federal Sports Minister Gary Lunn, left, and Vancouver Organizing Committee CEO John Furlong hold the torch used in the Calgary 1988 Winter Olympics in front of a map showing the 2010 Olympic Flame route.

Torch to touch most of Canada

OLYMPICS The torch relay for the 2010 Winter Olympics will cover 45,000 kilometres and pass through 266 British Columbia communities as it crosses Canada.

The relay will be the longest domestic torch run in Olympic history and will also include 115 Aboriginal communities across Canada, organizers said.

"Aboriginal culture is an important part of Canada's history," said Tewanee Joseph, CEO for the Four Host First Nations Society.

The Olympic Flame, which will be lit in Greece, will begin its cross-Canada tour Oct. 30, 2009, in Victoria and pass through 1,000 communities.

It will then wind its way back to Vancouver on Feb. 12, 2010.

The route will take the flame to within a one-hour drive of 90 per cent of the Canadian population in a bid to drum up support for the event, the Vancouver Organizing Committee said. Would-be torchbearers can apply online to enter a lottery — 12,000 people in all will be selected.

METRO CANADA

Protests

- The international portion of the relay has been cancelled. The torch run for the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing was marked by anti-China protests in several countries.

Breakthrough for B.C. cancer research team

KRISTEN THOMPSON
Metro Canada

MEDICINE A team of scientists at the B.C. Cancer Agency in Vancouver has made a milestone discovery in the fight to end breast cancer, the agency announced yesterday.

The findings, which were published this week in the medical journal Nature Medicine, will allow scientists to better study breast stem cells, likely the cause of breast cancers.

"We've devised a way to detect and see those stem cells in breasts," said Peter Eirew, lead author of the study. "Up until now, we haven't been able to set them apart from the other cells."

The research team believes it may be applicable to other types of cancer.

News in brief

IMMIGRATION Canada will maintain its current policy of encouraging immigration to meet identified labour shortages in key areas, despite the worldwide financial crisis, Jason Kenney, the minister for immigration, said. **REUTERS**

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Group pitches turning Pickton farm into memorial park

Supporters of Vancouver's missing women have pitched that the Port Coquitlam, B.C., pig farm where serial killer Robert Pickton murdered his victims should become a memorial park. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Protesting the honoured

KRISTEN THOMPSON
Metro Canada

An Aboriginal grandmother received one of the highest honours the Catholic Church bestows on a layperson at GM Place in Vancouver yesterday, while residential school survivors and their supporters protested the ceremony outside.

Shirley Leon was awarded the Benemerenti Pontifical Medal at a mass celebrating the centennial anniversary of the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

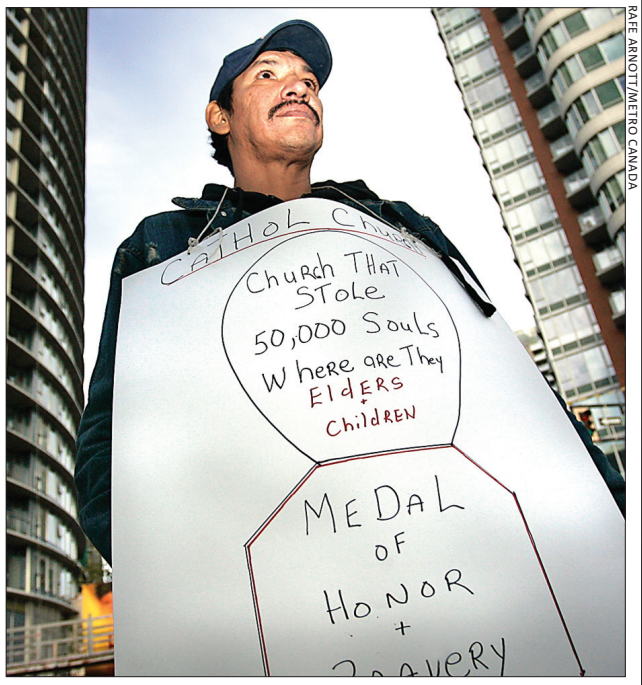
Leon retired this year as a member of the Canadian Catholic Church's Aboriginal Council for Reconciliation, where she consulted with priests and aboriginal people about reconciliation after the closing of residential schools.

Outside, Ricky Lavallie claimed he saw his older brother killed at a residential school, and the Church is shirking its responsibilities by hiding behind the government and letting it take the fall.

Kevin Annett, spokesperson for the Friends And Relatives Of The Disappeared, said it's outrageous that the Catholic Church is "posing as a friend of Native people."

"(The medal) is a pat on the head (from the Church) for helping improve their image to Natives," he said. "Reconciliation is just a word. It's the action that counts."

Annett said there can be no reconciliation until the church gives proper burials to the native children who died at residential schools and "surrenders those responsible for their death."



RAFE ARNOTT/METRO CANADA

Walter Lynxleg protests the Catholic Church's historical treatment of Aboriginals in Vancouver yesterday.

Listeriosis fear has Ottawa jail on high alert

TRACEY TONG
Metro Canada

OUTBREAK Hundreds of inmates at the Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre may have come in contact with listeriosis bacteria this month, although as of yesterday no inmates were believed to be affected.

The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services announced over the weekend that the city correctional facility is one of seven provincial jails that may have been exposed after the operator of a ministry-owned food-production facility found three samples of food that had tested positive for the bacteria.

Approximately 568 (515 male and 53 female) inmates — the majority of which are awaiting trial or sentencing — could potentially have been exposed the Ministry said yesterday.

Last summer, there were 20 deaths across the country linked to a listeriosis outbreak.

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Mystery 'Buddha boy' in Nepal vanishes again
A teenage Nepali boy many believe is an incarnation of Lord Buddha went missing Friday after blessing thousands of supporters, police said Saturday. This is the third time Ram Bahadur Bamjon, 17, has disappeared since his first appearance three years ago. REUTERS

World

Saudi prince seeks checkups

Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdul-Aziz, thought to be in his 80s, left Saudi Arabia for the United States yesterday for medical checkups, state media reported. Royal and diplomatic sources said he would be treated for cancer. He had an intestinal cyst removed in Saudi Arabia in 2005 and diplomats say he is in weaker health than his half-brother King Abdullah. REUTERS

Violence against Afghan children rising, UN says

REPORT Violations of children's rights are increasing in Afghanistan with more attacks against schools, more children killed and more evidence of child sexual abuse, the United Nations said yesterday.

The report was conducted by UNICEF using a combination of data from agencies working across Afghanistan and anecdotal reports or allegations.

It said western military operations were killing more children, and pointed to an air strike in July in which 30 of the 47 civilians killed were children.

Another major concern for UNICEF is sexual abuse against children, particularly boys being kept as sex slaves by wealthy men. REUTERS

Obama to announce top economic officials today

POLITICS President-elect Barack Obama yesterday prepared to announce his top economic team today as he worked on a stimulus plan designed to lift the country out of its worst financial crisis in decades.

The names for the two top jobs became known over the weekend – Timothy Geithner, 47, president of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, as treasury secretary, and Lawrence Summers, 53, a former treasury secretary under Bill Clinton, as director of the National Economic Council. REUTERS

Stimulus plan

- Obama has not put a price tag on the U.S. stimulus package. In October, he mentioned $175 billion US as a figure.

APEC leaders vow swift action

More free trade, spending urged to bolster economy

The United States, China, Japan and 18 other economies in Asia and the Americas pledged quick and decisive action yesterday to prevent a severe global economic downturn.

With recession gripping parts of the world and financial markets in chaos, leaders at the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum said the slowdown is "one of the most serious economic challenges we have ever faced."

> **"We are convinced that we can overcome this crisis in a period of 18 months."**
> APEC leaders

They said free trade and higher government spending were key to resolving the crisis, and supported a big push to revive long-stalled global trade talks by seeking agreements on contentious farming and manufactured goods.

Their pledges at the end of a two-day summit in Peru echoed the measures called for by the Group of 20 major economies at a meeting in Washington a week earlier, and widened the support for drastic action to stimulate lending and spending.

They promised at the summit to work together to ease the turmoil, agreed not to adopt new trade barriers for a year and called for better regulation of the financial industry.

They also supported overhauls of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank at a time when more countries need emergency bailouts to avert economic disaster.

"We are convinced that we can overcome this crisis in a period of 18 months," the leaders said at the summit. REUTERS

Mexico **Blurring the boundaries of gender**

REUTERS/STRINGER

Pedro Martinez, left, braids the hair of a friend dressed in the traditional costume of a Zapotec woman at the town of Juchitan in southern Mexico. Over the weekend the festival of the "muxes" was held for indigenous gays and transvestites in Juchitan, where they have found a haven of acceptance in Mexico's macho society.

Obama supports auto plan demand

ECONOMY President-elect Barack Obama backs congressional demands that U.S. automakers provide a game plan for long-term survival before lawmakers approve a taxpayer-funded bailout, a senior adviser said yesterday.

The plans are due Dec. 2, and lawmakers will hear again from corporate executives when Congress returns the week of Dec. 8. REUTERS

Pirates bring wealth to Somalia

AFRICA Massive ransoms demanded by Somali pirates have brought rapid development to former fishing villages that now thrive with businesses and boast new beachside hotels, patronized by cash-rich buccaneers who have become local celebrities. Investors have been attracted from around Somalia. REUTERS

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Israel jails eight Jewish neo-Nazis

JUSTICE An Israeli court jailed eight Jewish teenagers yesterday for carrying out neo-Nazi attacks in a case that sparked revulsion.

Tel Aviv District Court Judge Zvi Gurfinkel sentenced the teenagers, aged 16 to 19, to between one and seven years in prison for a "shocking and horrifying" year-long spree of attacks that targeted foreign workers, ultra-Orthodox Jews and homeless men. REUTERS

News in brief

THAILAND Thousands of anti-government protesters belonging to the People's Alliance for Democracy began marching to parliament in Bangkok yesterday, calling it the "final" push in their five-month campaign to unseat the administration. REUTERS

North Korea talks set for Dec. 8
The next six-nation talks on North Korea's nuclear program will be held Dec. 8 in China, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said yesterday. The aim of the talks would be an agreement on verification of North Korean disarmament steps, Rice told reporters aboard Air Force One. REUTERS

Space station gets a needed upgrade

Astronauts aboard the International Space Station yesterday tried to revive a urine-recycling machine needed to provide fresh water for an expanded crew scheduled to arrive next year.

The device is part of a $250-million US life-support system delivered by the visiting space shuttle Endeavour. NASA hopes to double the space station's crew from three members to six in May but needs to make sure the station has a reliable way to produce fresh water for drinking and cooking and operating their oxygen generator.

The station now gets most of its water from visiting shuttles, which produce water as a byproduct of their electrical systems. Astronauts bag the water and transfer it to the orbital outpost. The shuttles, however, are to be retired in two years.

"We want to get this system running as soon as possible so we can process urine and verify that we have good portable water coming out the other side," said station flight engineer Sandra Magnus during an in-flight interview.

A problem with a centrifuge has stymied attempts to distill urine samples so far and shuts down the machine. REUTERS

Future flights

- NASA plans eight more flights to the station, a $100-billion US project of 16 nations, before the shuttles are retired in 2010.

Brits want Arab states to help pressure Iran on nuke program

MIDDLE EAST British Foreign Secretary David Miliband will urge Gulf Arab states today to step up pressure on Iran over its nuclear program by imposing financial restrictions and tightening export controls.

In a speech in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates, Miliband will say that the prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran poses the most immediate threat to Middle East stability.

He will say Britain is keen to work with Gulf countries on dealing with the Iranian nuclear question, according to an advance copy of his speech.

The United Nations Security Council has imposed three rounds of sanctions on Iran because of its refusal to halt uranium enrichment. REUTERS

Kiev **Remembering the famine**

MYKOLA LAZARENKO/REUTERS

Candles are seen on a monument commemorating the mass famine of 1932-33 in Kiev. Ukraine marked the 75th anniversary of the famine engineered by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, when millions of people died of hunger, on Saturday.

Venezuelans head to the polls

ELECTION Venezuelans voted yesterday in state elections that test President Hugo Chavez's grip after a decade in power as he seeks to renew his drive toward socialism in the OPEC nation despite falling oil prices.

Although popular with the poor, Chavez lost a referendum vote on a major constitutional overhaul last year and needs his allies to score clear victories so he can advance measures allowing him to stay in office after his term ends in 2012. REUTERS

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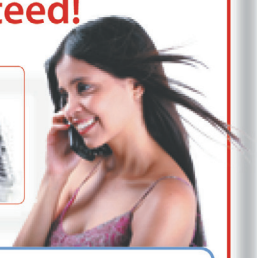

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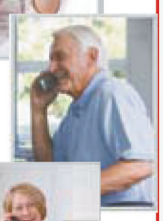
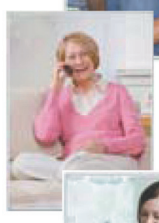

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Savvy holiday shopping tips

HineSight

Anne Hines

Thirty-one days until Christmas. Once again I find myself asking, "If the holidays are about home and family, why am I always alone in a mall?"

I could buy gifts online. But I always feel this should be dubbed, "Internet shopping. When you care enough to send the best. But not to actually go out and get it yourself."

To make your gift buying easier, here is The HineSight Guide to Savvy Seasonal Shopping.

1. Before scouring the stores for that one perfect unforgettable present, follow three steps. Pause. Think of all the unforgettable gifts you've given or received in previous years. If you can't remember more than two, just buy everyone socks.

2. Forget gift cards. My daughter, Jade, says, "Gift cards: They're like cash. Only worse." I still have cards from places like Heidi's House of Hostas and Sausage World. And convenience-wise, you may still have to go from store to store to get them. Even cash has to be procured and shoved in an envelope. If we really wanted convenience, there's an obvious solution. Direct deposit from your account to your loved ones'.

Make shopping an extreme sport. My brother, Bruce, believes there is no life event so onerous that it can't be turned into a competition.

3. Convert to Buddhism. Really. Right now. Buddhists are joyous, peaceful people so you know they don't have to go into a single mall in December. Any religion that doesn't require gifts this time of year will do. Saying, "I'm sorry. I'm a disciple of the Goddess Habukku," should get you out of that Secret Santa draw no problem.

4. Make shopping an extreme sport. My brother, Bruce, believes there is no life event so onerous that it can't be turned into a competition. Bruce would start his Christmas shopping at 4 p.m. on Dec. 24. If the gift he gave you came in a Shoppers Drug Mart bag, you knew he didn't make it to your present before the mall closed at six.

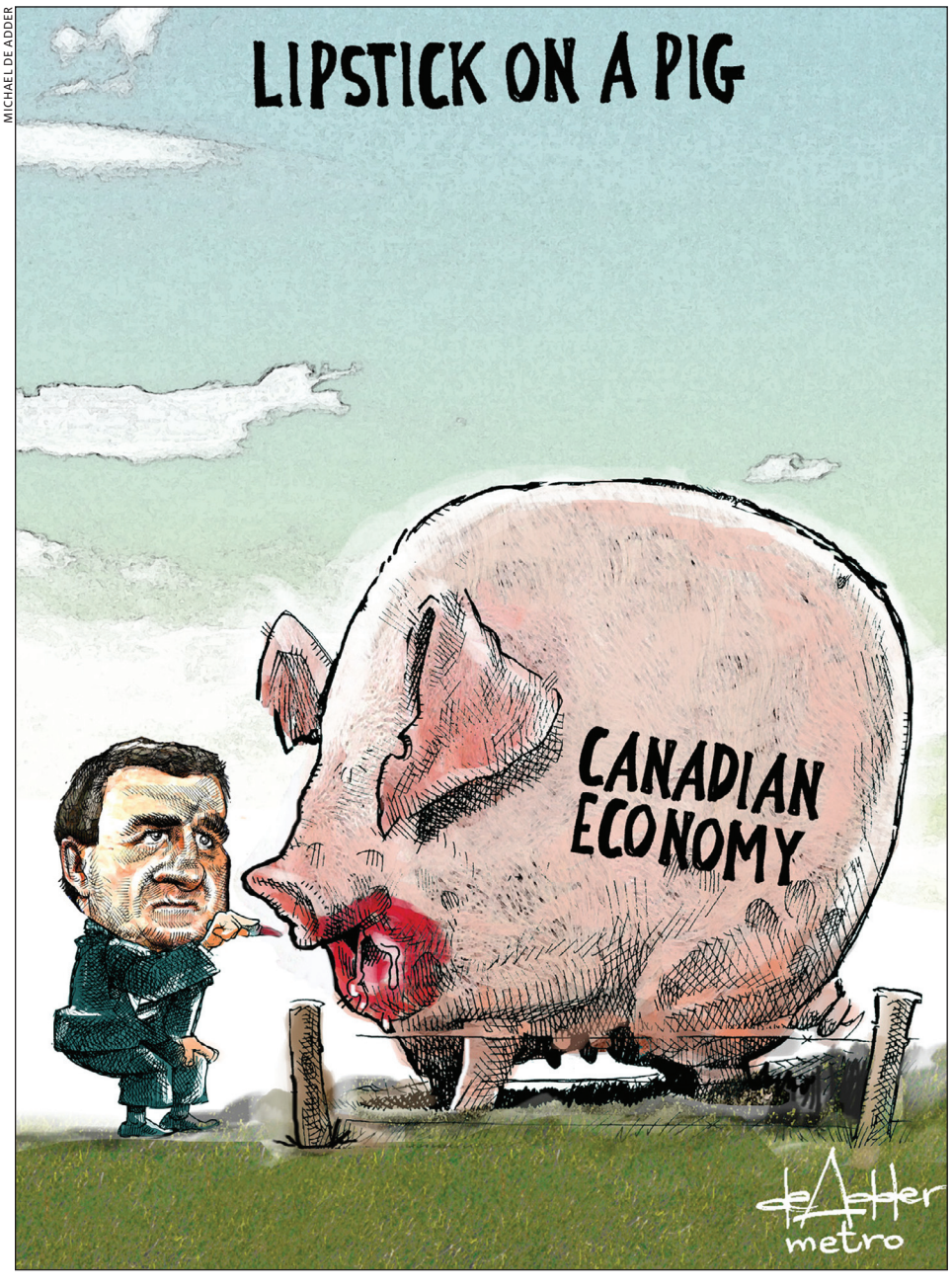
5. Never give someone a poinsettia. Poinsettias should be genetically engineered to die on Dec. 31. They're the Survivor contestants of the plant world. I can starve them, ignore them, stick them in the basement and they still hang on for months, proclaiming, "Isn't this fun? I'm all about Christmas." By April, I'm tossing them into the compost bin and I feel like I've killed Santa Claus.

These few simple rules can make the holidays less daunting. And we need that.

Because it's only 395 days until next Christmas.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

MICHAEL DE ADDER



Views

Urban sprawl a unique monster

InTransit

Chris Phalen

calgaryletters@metronews.ca

Communities brooded by the concept of rapid leapfrog development are waiting longer for emergency services in deep suburbia, and an amended budget set to bolster frontline services won't help.

The "blowback" of urban sprawl in Calgary revealed another unintended consequence of rapid growth when recent reports said emergency response times are up across the board.

We are outgrowing our services, no question about it.

While Calgarians deal daily with poor urban planning, the city seemingly put safety on the shelf as emergency teams are left chasing the dangling carrot, battling an infrastructure supply that is being squashed by demand.

Lack of stations, longer distance and traffic congestion are only a few of the obstacles facing emergency service teams.

EMS target responses are at eight minutes for life-threatening calls, but are only meeting that target about 75 per cent of the time. Fire Chief Bruce Burrell says 22 additional fire stations are needed over the next 10 years to accommodate ballooning population and sprawl, but the current budget has only room for four.

Dr. Bev Sandalack, professor and director of the urban lab at the faculty of environmental design at U of C, says arguments backing compact developments and denser communities would ease the access to citizens in crisis.

"Emergency vehicles likely have the same problem in finding the right drive, crescent, close, way, circle, loop, grove, rise — all with the same name," she points out.

Most experts come to the same fledgling conclusions that patterns of growth need to be systematic throughout in order to improve the fiscal, social and environmental run-offs of urban sprawl.

We can only hope city hall is listening.

As it stands, the city, and not the developer, holds most of the responsibility for constructing stations within acceptable time frames and proximities of new communities, but the mark is being missed.

Brave homeowners settling deep in suburbia need to be told the straight goods — it might be 10 to 20 years before adequate infrastructure is in place.

Perhaps contract revisions between city and developer should bestow more responsibility on the developer to construct fire and police stations and EMS outposts rather than merely pencil in the space.

Urban sprawl is a complicated monster, and shouldn't be confused with growth.

City officials need to slow down and think things through.

Chris Phalen is a web intern and regular contributor to Avenue magazine. He has also contributed to the Prince Albert Daily Herald, Globe and Mail and various magazines.

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General Motors returns jets after outcry
General Motors Corp. will return two of its leased corporate jets, and Ford could sell some of its jets, after their executives were blasted this week for flying on a private jet to Washington to ask the U.S. federal government for public funds. **REUTERS**

Business

Coffee-grower takeover?

Coffee-growing nations should buy Starbucks and create their own distribution chain amid the coffee chain's slowing sales and store closures, Colombia's coffee federation chief said yesterday. Gabriel Silva said Colombia will acquire four times the coffee stocks it did a year ago to build up inventory and shore up coffee prices. **REUTERS**

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Emergency moves forced in Middle East

ECONOMY Saudi Arabia slashed interest rates for an unprecedented third time since October and the United Arab Emirates intervened in a property merger yesterday in moves to contain the impact of the credit crunch.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, reduced its key repurchase rate by 100 basis points to three per cent to keep credit markets moving and boost domestic liquidity.

The kingdom's central bank also lowered reserve requirements from 10 per cent to seven per cent, prompting one economist to say the two actions may mean the central bank has detected "serious slowdown signs, especially in the private sector."

The finance ministry also announced that two of the UAE's largest mortgage lenders, Amlak and Tamweel, already on track to merge, will be brought under a state-owned bank in the first sign of federal intervention in Dubai's real estate sector. **REUTERS**

In brief

MEDIA Sony Corp.-owned Crackle.com is set to unveil a new slew of Internet comedy and talk shows in a move to bolster online entertainment.

OIL Canadian energy companies have yet to start shutting down oil production due to low prices, but at $50 US a barrel, the meltdown has started to fuel some nervousness at the prospect. **REUTERS**

British PM defends 20B pound bailout

BAILOUT British Prime Minister Gordon Brown defended his plan to inject up to 20 billion pounds of borrowed money into the economy to stave off recession in the form of tax cuts and extra public spending, saying failure to act could cause permanent damage to the economy. **REUTERS**

Egypt **Polluted waters**

NASSER NURI/REUTERS

A fisherman wears a mask, which he says protects his face from water pollution, in Lake Manzala near Port Said, about 300 kilometres north of Cairo yesterday.

Free-trade agreement with Colombia signed

Canada and Colombia have signed a free-trade agreement, hoping to boost investment and trade flows at a time of global economic instability.

The pact, which has been criticized by union leaders in both countries, as well as opposition politicians and human-rights activists who say Colombia is not doing enough to stop attacks on activists, includes side agreements on labour and environmental rights.

The deal must be ratified by lawmakers in both countries. It was signed as leaders from the United States, China, Japan, Canada, Australia and other Pacific Rim economies gathered in Peru's capital, Lima, for a summit of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, or APEC, forum.

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Colombian President Alvaro Uribe said at a news conference the trade deal sent an anti-protectionism message at a time of economic turmoil when some countries have increased trade barriers.

Harper said a stalled Colombia-U.S. free-trade deal would also send a message of commitment to open markets if it could move forward.

Colombia and the United States signed a trade deal two years ago, but the U.S. Congress has not approved it.

Colombia is an aspiring member of APEC and Uribe was in Peru to speak with business leaders before the APEC summit, although he will not participate in the leaders' meeting. **REUTERS**

Deal details

- Tariffs on 98 per cent of current Canadian exports to Colombia would be eliminated either immediately or in the next 10 years.
- In the next three to seven years, tariffs on most Colombian exports to Canada would also be cut.

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Short showers save water
Think of a bath as a luxury. Instead, take a five-minute shower. If you have a low-flow showerhead, that will use less than half the water, saving around 40 litres each time. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Going Green

Hybrids produce less CO_2

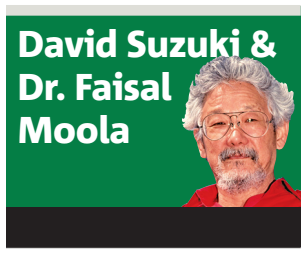
Looking for a new car? A hybrid car produces two tonnes of CO_2 over 20,000 kilometres driven; a gasoline sedan produces four tonnes of CO_2; and an SUV produces six tonnes of CO_2, according to Greeniology: How To Live Well, Be Green and Make a Difference by Tanya Ha.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: MIKE DEREZYCKY, MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

A behemoth that won't stop growing

The economy is a monster, threatening the very things that keep the planet habitable

ScienceMatters



Have you noticed that we describe the market and economy as if they were living entities? The market is showing signs of stress. The economy is healthy. The economy is on life support.

Sometimes, we act as if the economy is larger than life. In the past, people trembled in fear of dragons, demons, gods, and monsters, sacrificing anything — virgins, money, newborn babies — to appease them. We know now that those fears were superstitious imaginings, but we have replaced them with a new behemoth: The economy.

Even stranger, economists believe this behemoth can grow forever. Indeed, the measure of how well a government or corporation is doing is its record of economic growth. But our home — the biosphere, or zone of air, water, and land where all life exists — is finite and fixed. It can't grow. And nothing within such a world can grow indefinitely. In focusing on constant growth, we fail to ask the important questions. What is an economy for? Am I happier with all this stuff? How much is enough?

For the first time in four billion years of life on Earth, one species has become so powerful and plentiful that it is altering the physical, chemical and biological features of the planet on a geological scale.

A timely new book by York University environmental economist Peter Victor, Managing Without Growth: Slower by Design, Not Disaster, addresses the absurdity of an economic system based on endless growth. Victor also shows that the concept of growth as an indispensable feature of economics is a recent phenomenon.

The economy is not a force of nature, some kind of immutable, infallible entity. We created it, and when cracks appear, it makes no sense to simply shovel on more money to keep it going. Because it's a human invention, an economy is something we should be able to fix — but if we can't, we should toss it out and replace it with something better.

This current economic crisis provides an opportunity to re-examine our priorities. For decades, scientists and environmentalists have been alarmed at global environmental degradation.

For the first time in four billion years of life on Earth, one species has become so powerful and plentiful that it is altering the physical, chemical and biological features of the planet on a geological scale. And so we have to ask, "What is the collective impact of everyone in the world?" We've never had to do that before, and it's difficult. Even when we do contemplate our global effects, we have no mechanism to respond as one species to the crises.

So all the things an intact ecosystem does to keep the planet vibrant and healthy for animals like us are simply ignored in our economy. No wonder futurist Hazel Henderson describes conventional economics as "a form of brain damage."

Nature's services keep the planet habitable for animals like us and must become an integral component of a new economic structure. We must get off this suicidal focus on endless, mindless growth.

Take David Suzuki's Nature Challenge and learn more at *www.davidsuzuki.org*.

Dr. David T. Suzuki is a Vancouver-based award-winning scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster.

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Silver, bronze for Canadian duo
Canada's Christine Nesbitt and Kristina Groves kept up their winning ways on the World Cup speedskating circuit yesterday, collecting a silver and bronze respectively in the women's 1,500-metre.

Sports

O'Neal's knee a cause for concern

Jermaine O'Neal left the Raptors' 118-103 loss to the Celtics yesterday. The centre had started despite having strained his surgically repaired left knee against New Jersey on Friday. Against the Nets, O'Neal hurt his knee when he was pulled down in the fourth quarter by Sean Williams. There was no structural damage, but O'Neal did not practice Saturday. "It just didn't have any stability, it was becoming a little too painful," said O'Neal yesterday. "The big picture for us is in the long term and we've got two days before the next game." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Stampeders ice Grey Cup

MVP Burris wins the big one as Calgary brings home first CFL championship since 2001

96TH GREY CUP

Stamps 22 **Alouettes** 14

VS

DAN TOTH
for Metro Calgary

THE SKINNY: The Stampeders claimed Calgary's sixth Grey Cup with a 22-14 win over Montreal. The West Division has now won four consecutive CFL championships.

The Alouettes, meanwhile, have lost six of the seven Grey Cup games they've played in since 2000.

THE QUOTE: **"You'd have had to cut my leg off for me not to play in the Grey Cup,"** Stamps cornerback Brandon Browner told TSN. Browner had his ankle frozen prior to the game, allowing him to play despite a sprained joint.

REUTERS/TODD KOROL

Henry Burris celebrates with a cigar and champagne after capturing his first Grey Cup last night.

THE RUNNER-UP QUOTE: **"This is what you fight for, go through the ups and downs for and right now I feel like I'm living a dream,"** Henry Burris told TSN before being rewarded as the game's Most Valuable Player. **"We fought every game this season, whether it meant something or it didn't mean something, we showed up for each other. Calgary Stampeders football is on the map now."**

THE TURNING POINT: Stampeders defensive back Shannon James picked off Als quarterback Anthony Calvillo in the Calgary end-zone in the fourth quarter, snuffing out Montreal's chance of a comeback.

THE GAME BREAKER: Sandro DeAngelis booted a 50-yard field goal in the fourth quarter, his fifth three-pointer of the night, en route to being named the game's Most Outstanding Canadian.

THE RATING (OUT OF FIVE STARS): Three. Great defence is entertaining but nothing can match an offensive shootout, which never materialized.

THE RUMBLING: Expect Browner to sign with an NFL team in the off-season although Henry Burris is expected to sign a contract extension.

THE HOMECOMING: The Stampeders will arrive at Calgary International Airport today and will head directly to McMahon Stadium at 2 p.m.

Stamps prove the old adage correct: Defence wins championships

You've been there before, surely. You wanted a job or a position badly — desperately — but you were not-so-nicely snubbed. And so, you dearly wanted to make the folks who rejected you regret their decision.

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

Well, Chris Jones was able to turn such a desire into reality in a tangible way last night. A defensive coach with Montreal the past seven years, Jones was unceremoniously discarded by the Alouettes before this season after he had applied to the club for the then-vacant position of head coach.

Last night, Jones got sweet revenge — in the form of a Grey Cup championship. Jones is the defensive co-ordinator of the Calgary Stampeders, and it was primarily his unit that was responsible for a 22-14 triumph over those Alouettes in the 96th edition of the CFL's showcase event.

The game wasn't especially entertaining — unless you're turned on by field goals and a dearth of touchdowns — but the Stamps could care less. For them, this fifth championship in their history was bone-chilling.

Calgary quarterback Henry Burris passed for 328 yards and rushed for 79 and was chosen the game's MVP. Calgary kicker Sandro DeAngelis was the game's top Canadian after connecting on five of five field-goal attempts, including a 50-yarder late in the game to cement the victory. But it was the Calgary defence that particularly prevailed last night.

Using a brilliant game plan that stymied Montreal quarterback Anthony Calvillo, the CFL's premier player this season, the Stamps knocked down a staggering four passes, intercepted two and limited the Als to only one touchdown — and a measly single point in the second half.

REUTERS/CHRISTINNE MUSCHI

Mike Labinjo celebrates a sack on Anthony Calvillo last night.

"Chris Jones and his staff did an excellent job teaching a lot of young players to play defence," Calgary's rookie head coach, John Hufnagel, told TSN after the game.

"They grew and matured as the season progressed." Calvillo, who has only one Grey Cup ring despite six appearances in the final in a nine-year span, clearly was flustered by Jones' strategy.

"We made big second-half adjustments," Stamps defensive lineman Mike Labinjo told TSN. "And we rattled Calvillo."

The Stamps trailed 13-10 at halftime, but Labinjo insisted they weren't bothered by the partisanship at Montreal's Olympic Stadium, which was occupied by 66,308 spectators — the second-largest crowd in Cup history.

University of Windsor opens Centre for English Language Development
Last week, the University of Windsor unveiled its new Centre for English Language and Development. The facility is located in a former Royal Canadian Legion building, which was sold to the university due to declining membership. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Soccer in Manitoba
Earlier this month, the University of Manitoba opened a new multi-field soccer complex. The larger playing field in the facility can be subdivided into smaller fields to accommodate different ages and abilities.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Time to prep for the worst

Management should manage fear-free

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Anxious times can create anxious employees, but good management can alleviate some of that anxiety.

Productivity plummets when workers spend more time each day worrying about their jobs than doing them, which is why employers need to reassure their workers with open and constructive leadership.

Sue Philchuk, vice-president and partner at Canadian disability management consulting firm Banyan Work Health Solutions, suggests the most important thing for employers to do during tougher times is to demystify what's happening and let employees be a part of the solution.

"Be really honest and transparent with (your workers) about what's going on and let them know what the game plan is and how they can contribute," Philchuk said.

Though Philchuk isn't suggesting business owners should reveal all the inner workings of the business to employees, she says giving away as much information as possible will show trust and respect. Rather than have employees speculate about what's happening and expecting the worst, giving them the facts can help to keep their fears at bay.

"The more control people have ... the less stress there's going to be."
Sue Philchuk

"I think you need to reveal what's possible to reveal, because people are thinking about it anyway. The more control people have over their circumstances, the more achievable those goals are and the less stress there's going to be in the workplace," Philchuk said.

As for supporting workers individually, Philchuk suggests consistent feedback can clarify employees' job duties and help keep them on track to reach their goals.

"Make sure employees know exactly what their job duties are and that you're providing them with clear, concise and constructive feedback on how they're doing," Philchuk said.

Of course, giving feedback includes recognizing a job well done, something Philchuk says many leaders forget. A few words of encouragement can go a long way.

Losing your job may be a real possibility

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

With growing fears of a recession in Canada, smart workers know to hope for the best, but prepare for the worst.

Jordin Amin, an American certified public accountant (CPA), suggests the first thing people should do in a turbulent time is to start preparing their emergency fund — a collection of money they have saved for the sole purpose of keeping themselves afloat should they suddenly lose their income. While credit can tide you over in the short-term, its long-term effects, like compounded interest, can be debilitating financially and accessing money from things like savings bonds or RRSPs in a pinch can carry its own set of penalties, fees and other problems.

"Every dollar you can save is a good dollar to have when you need it and it's much easier to use your own money instead of someone else's," Amin said.

As for credit, securing sources of it before the bad times hit is crucial since credit becomes very difficult to secure when you have no income.

The key to saving your own money, Amin says, is to come to terms with the fact that a certain amount of money needs to be put away every month, to be used only in times of a financial emergency. One way to ensure you stick to your saving plan is to have your employer split a portion of your paycheque into a separate direct deposit account works. Or you could have your bank do an automatic transfer of a particular amount of money from your main account into your emergency fund account every month or so. The important thing, according to Amin, is to make the act of saving your money as effortless as possible.

Thinking ahead

- Conventional thinking used to recommend three to six months of saved-up living expenses to cover things like mortgage and loan payments, food and utility payments. Nowadays though, Jordin Amin (CPA) suggests six to 12 months is a more realistic number to aim for.

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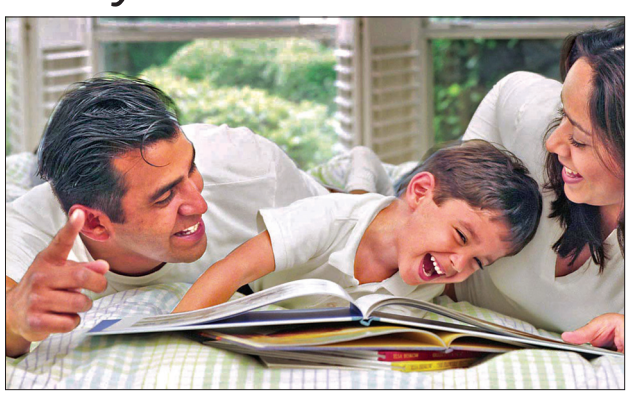
Building literacy a word at a time

EDUCATION Canada enjoys one of the highest literacy rates in the world, and yet, according to Human Resources and Social Development Canada, at least 40 per cent of Canadian adults do not meet the minimum level required to succeed in the knowledge-based economy.

Literacy — the ability to read and write, and also to understand and use language — takes root in early childhood. Studies have shown that children who are read to by their parents develop stronger language and listening skills, vocabulary, and creativity. In addition, toddlers aged two to three who are read to several times a day do significantly better in kindergarten than those who are only read to a few times a week or less, according to ABC Canada Literacy Foundation.

"Literacy is about brain development, education and creativity, but it is also about fun," says Brad Martin, president of the Canadian Publishers' Council (CPC). "Whether being read to by a caregiver, for a school assignment or for leisure, there is a lot of power in each and every book, not to mention important childhood memories of curling up with a parent or grandparent to read a favourite story."


One way to build literacy is to make reading a fun activity.

Encouraging literacy at a young age isn't just the responsibility of children and their family — community support is also important. Libraries, book stores and schools all play important roles in fostering the love of reading. And Canadian publishers are also doing their part by supporting numerous literacy initiatives.

In the past five years, members of CPC have donated millions of books and more than $1.2 million in funding to special literacy initiatives. NEWS CANADA

Trend seen in schools offering courses on blogging
How-to courses on blogging are popping up in continuing education programs across Canada. Simon Fraser University will offer a weekend course about blogging. The University of Toronto, Nova Scotia Community College, Centennial College and the University of British Columbia also offer blogging courses. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tree rings are great storytellers

OddJobs

As a dendrochronologist, Colin Laroque knows that in the Maritimes, most of the old growth forests have been clear-cut, and finding a tree more than 200 years old is a huge find.

On a recent workday, Colin Laroque went down to the old mines near the Joggins Fossil Cliffs on the Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia to check out some pieces of wood with a historian visiting from England.

He took some doweling-shaped samples of the wood, using a hand auger, put them under a microscope and counted the rings down to a thousandth of a millimetre.

"Trees have many ways of telling us about the past," he says. As a dendrochronologist — a job title that simply breaks down to the words "tree" and "time" — Laroque, 43, knows how to tap into this information.

He'll take the pattern of those tree rings and compare it to other samples he and his students at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick, have taken in the area. When he synchs up the patterns, he'll know the year the tree was cut down to make the wood for the mine or dock. That in turn will tell him whether it was made by the Acadians before 1739, or the British who came later and took over the mines.

Such detective work is common for Laroque, who is an associate professor and director of the Mount Allison Dendrochronology Laboratory. He and his team of undergraduate and graduate students also help people date the wood in their homes to see if it was built by the Acadians — making it a lot more valuable.

Dendrochronologists do research, too — some of it very creative. One of Laroque's students analyzing the heavy metals that have gotten into trees from the Sydney Tar Ponds over the years, while another is calculating how global warming will affect trees in the future.

Laroque grew up north of Saskatoon; a kid who loved the outdoors. He was studying physical geography at the University of Saskatchewan when a professor took him and a class out to look at a glacier. Laroque was not only fascinated by how important water was to his prairie homeland, but by the fact that the trees were the best way to track how the glacier had changed over the years.

He moved to Vancouver Island to do his master's and PhD at the University of Victoria, studying geography and dendrochronology, then ended up at Mount Allison.

There are only about 20 dendrochronologists in Canada, and most of them work in the old virgin forests of British Columbia or Ontario, where there are trees as old as 900 years.

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

The Lowdown

Job title: Dendrochronologist
Salary: $45,000 to $100,000
Education/training: Graduate degree in geography under a dendrochronologist
Best Part of the Job: "I enjoy being outside. I'm out hunting down trees and camping and I get to see a lot of the country."
Worst Part of the Job: "Being in remote Labrador and wearing two bug jackets and trying to keep the bugs out while you're eating a sandwich."

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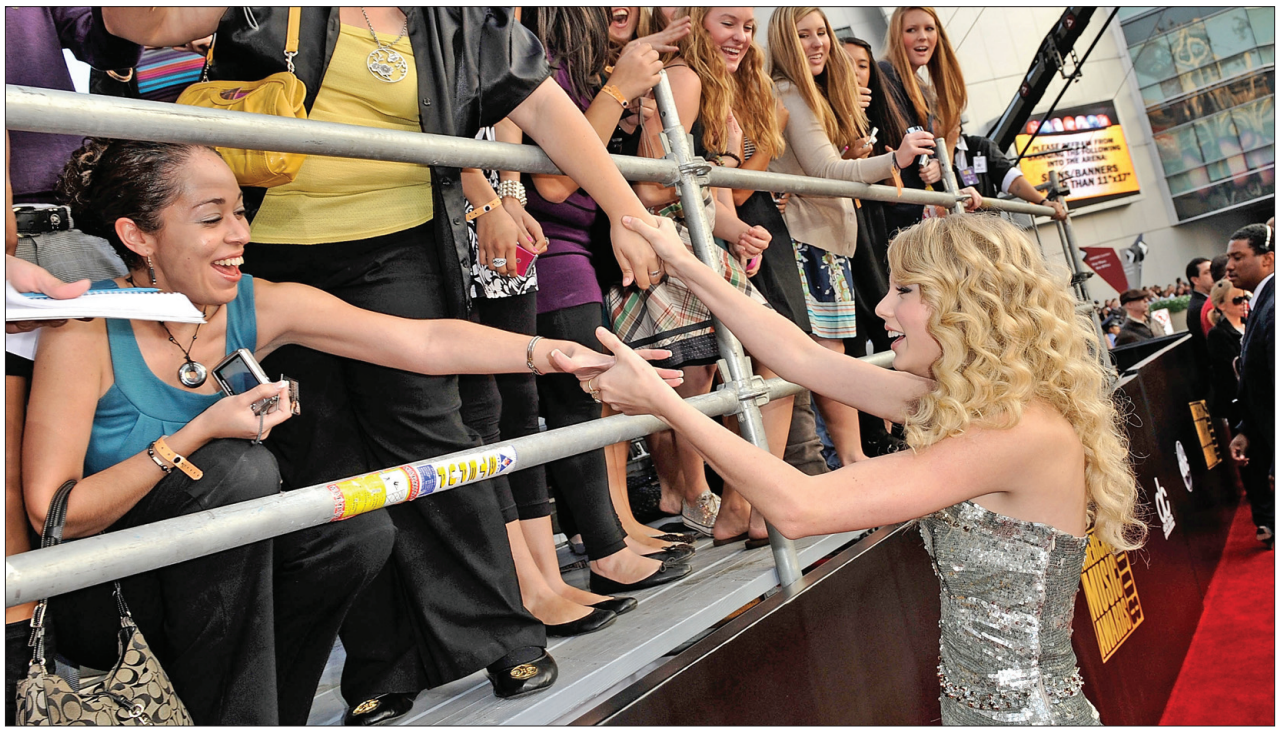
Ritchie's Rocco gets cameo
Guy Ritchie is reportedly giving his eight-year-old son Rocco a cameo appearance in his next film, Sherlock Holmes. **IMDB.COM**

Entertainment

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Singer Taylor Swift greets fans lined along the red carpet outside the American Music Awards in Los Angeles yesterday.

Brown top artist at AMAs

R&B singer Chris Brown swept the American Music Awards last night, winning three prizes including artist of the year.

He overshadowed Alicia Keys, who led the field with five nominations, and ended up with a pair of statuettes. She was considered the favourite for artist of the year, the ceremony's final award.

Brown was clearly shocked when his name was announced. He said he would have given the award to British rock band Coldplay, which was nominated for four awards, but went home empty-handed.

The 19-year-old star was also named favourite male artist in both the soul/R&B and pop/rock categories. His girlfriend, Rihanna, won those categories for the women.

Keys' awards were for her chart-topping disc, As I Am, which was named favourite album in the soul/R&B and pop/rock categories.

Other multiple winners included outspoken rapper Kanye West, who has never been afraid to express his dismay when he is overlooked at awards shows. He won the first two American Music Awards of his career, but said he would give one of them away to fellow nominee, Lil' Wayne.

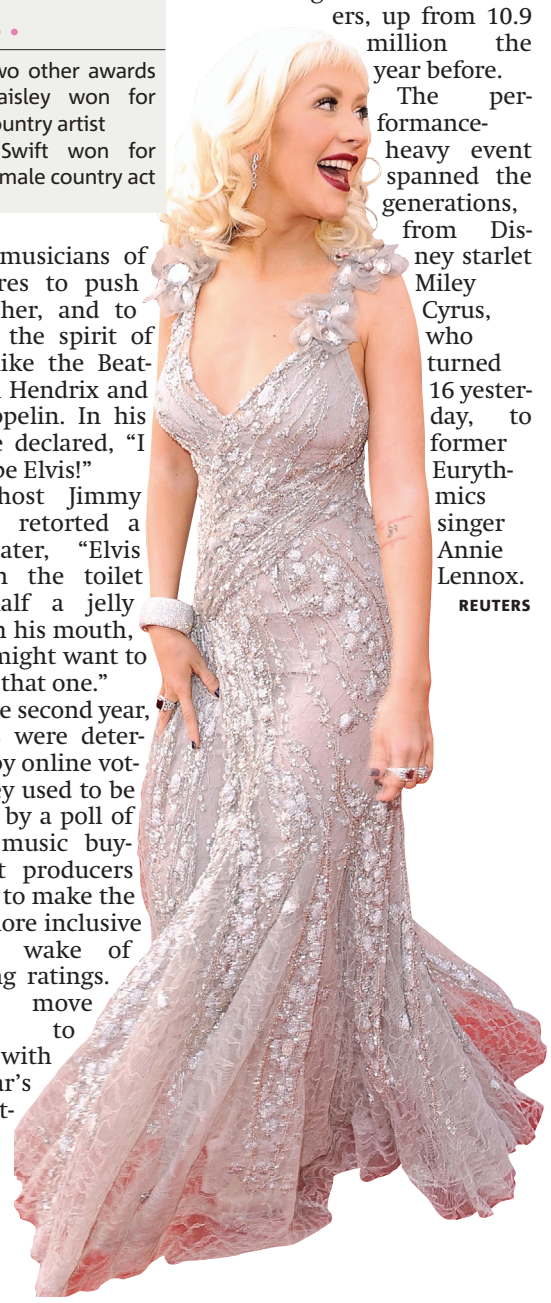
"If it was last year, this would have been my award," West said of the favourite male rap/hip-hop category. "This year, it's Wayne's award. We'll see what happens next year."

Earlier, he won for the statuette for favourite rap/hip-hop album with Graduation. West challenged musicians of all genres to push each other, and to reclaim the spirit of artists like the Beatles, Jimi Hendrix and Led Zeppelin. In his case, he declared, "I wanna be Elvis!"

But host Jimmy Kimmel retorted a little later, "Elvis died on the toilet with half a jelly donut in his mouth, so you might want to rethink that one."

For the second year, winners were determined by online voting. They used to be decided by a poll of 20,000 music buyers, but producers decided to make the event more inclusive in the wake of slumping ratings. The move seemed to work, with last year's show attracting 11.8 million viewers, up from 10.9 million the year before.

The performance-heavy event spanned the generations, from Disney starlet Miley Cyrus, who turned 16 yesterday, to former Eurythmics singer Annie Lennox. **REUTERS**



Christina Aguilera and T-Pain pose for photographers.

And the big winners are. . .

- Alicia Keys won favourite pop/rock album for As I Am
- Favourite rap/hip-hop album went to Kanye West
- Chris Brown won artist of the year, two other awards
- Brad Paisley won for favourite country artist
- Taylor Swift won for favourite female country act

Vatican forgives Lennon
A Vatican newspaper has forgiven John Lennon for saying four decades ago that The Beatles were more popular than Jesus. **BBC NEWS ONLINE**

The land Down Under

Interest in Australia sure to swell with release of new film

JIM REYNO
Metro Canada

It's a great line, maybe even a classic.

Actor Paul Hogan, starring as the title character in Crocodile Dundee, is confronted by a mugger. Dundee's companion tells him to hand over his wallet — the kid's got a knife.

"That's not a knife," Dundee chuckles, and pulls out a bigger Bowie knife. "That's a knife."

The mugger flees and the world laughed along, loving Hogan as the Australian crocodile hunter out of his element in New York City. The year was 1986, and Crocodile Dundee was a critical and box-office smash, bringing Australia right along with it. The Outback was in, with a flurry of G'days, a few Fosters — and keep that dingo away from the baby.

With the release of director Baz Luhrmann's much-anticipated film Australia, interest in the country is sure to swell again.

But there's already an Aussie presence active in our culture. Luhrmann has already made his mark with the films Moulin Rouge, Romeo + Juliet and Strictly Ballroom. His male lead in Australia is fellow countryman Hugh Jackman, best known as Wolverine in the X-Men series.

Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman star in Australia.

Jackman isn't the only popular leading man to come from the land Down Under. Russell Crowe, who was born in New Zealand and moved to Australia as a child, won a best-actor Oscar for his performance in 2000's Gladiator.

Mel Gibson and Geoffrey Rush are other Australian Oscar winners. And there's Oscar buzz around another Aussie this year — Heath Ledger, who died in January, for his portrayal of the Joker in The Dark Knight.

Australian women are also prevalent on the big screen: Cate Blanchett and Naomi Watts are two of the best known; Winnipeg-born Anna Paquin grew up in New Zealand.

The female lead in Luhrmann's U.S.-born, but Australia-raised Nicole Kidman, who has had an impressive career, including an Oscar win for her performance in The Hours in 2003.

Plus, she makes up one half of what is probably the best-known Australian celebrity couple. Like Crowe, country rocker Keith Urban is a transplanted New Zealander. The two-time Grammy winner married Kidman in June 2006.

Kylie Minogue is another Grammy-garnering Aussie. She won for best dance recording in 2004.

Urban-Kidman may be Australia's most famous male-female couple, but there's no doubt about the top sibling couple. Guitarists Malcolm and Angus Young are the hard rock foundation of AC/DC. The legendary band's most recent CD, Black Ice, debuted at No. 1 in 29 countries.

Box office

Ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres:

1. **Twilight:** $70.6 million US
2. **Quantum of Solace:** $27.4 million
3. **Bolt:** $27 million
4. **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa:** $16 million
5. **Role Models :** $7.2 million
6. **Changeling:** $2.6 million
7. **High School Musical 3: Senior Year:** $2 million
8. **Zack and Miri Make a Porno:** $1.7 million
8. **The Boy in the Striped Pajamas:** $1.7 million
10. **The Secret Life of Bees:** $1.3 million

REUTERS

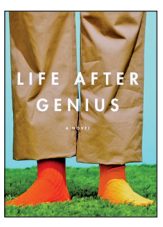
Kiss questions rock hall snub

MUSIC They've sold millions of records, and influenced generations of fans and musicians. So why isn't Kiss in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame?

That's what Gene Simmons would like to know.

"There are disco bands, rap bands ... in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, but not Kiss," the band's outspoken bass player said during a speech last week. REUTERS

Finding new Life After Genius



Life After **Genius**

Author: M. Ann Jacoby
Publisher: Grand Central Publishing
Price: $27.99 (Hardcover)

Up there with Magnolia quiz kid Donnie Smith and Into The Wild's Chris "Alexander Supertramp" McCandless, you'll find Thomas Mead Fegley. In Life After Genius, he's the latest intellect-gone-awry whose youthful academic feats take an unpredictable turn when he's just 18. Already on the cusp of graduating university and proving an over century-old hypothesis, Fegley suddenly leaves school to return to his Illinois home. His decision to sell furniture and work as an embalmer confuses his parents, past acquaintances and everyone who knows the once-upon-a-time prodigy. But by escaping what he's always known, Fegley begins to learn who he really is.

BookPicks

Signed, **Mata Hari**

Author: Yannick Murphy
Publisher: Little, Brown and Company
Price: $29.99 (Hardcover)

Who is the real Margaretha Zelle? Is she the disparaged wife of a broken marriage? World-traveling independent woman? Temple dancer Mata Hari? Or is the seeming jill-of-all-trades, as her imprisonment would suggest, a World War I spy for Germany? That's what the authorities that put her in a Paris jail believe. And it's her job to convince them otherwise, or face a gruesome demise. Yannick Murphy assembles an often erotic, rarely dull account of a woman begging for her life by authenticating her own past through narrative reflection.

Chaplin: A Life

Author: Stephen Weissman
Publisher: Arcade Publishing
Price: $30.99 (Hardcover)

You already know Charlie Chaplin the mime, the clown and the tramp. But for the English comedian who would pave the way for modern comics, life wasn't always a laughing matter. In Chaplin: A Life, author Stephen Weissman traces the history of the famously mustached man, including his broken childhood when his parents' destitution forced him to take up residence at an orphanage. Weissman diverts from Chaplin the ham, delving into the early star's political persuasions and racy sexual past. Equipped with Chaplin quotes and photographs, Chaplin: A Life removes the cane and derby hat to deliver the facts behind the funny.

BRIAN COULTON/FOR METRO CANADA

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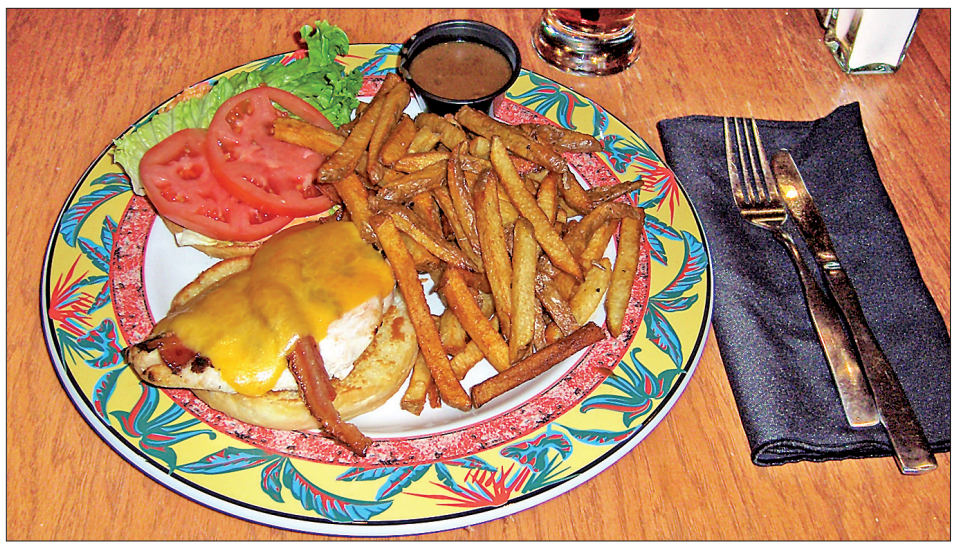
Bourne again
Movie studio bosses have signed a deal to revive Matt Damon's amnesiac assassin character in a new series of the hit action movie The Bourne Identity. IMDB.COM

🌐🌐🌐🌐🌐 INSPIRED; 🌐🌐🌐🌐 VERY GOOD; 🌐🌐🌐 PALATABLE; 🌐🌐 HO-HUM; 🌐 NEVER AGAIN



Metro's Lunch Rush columnist is definitely keen on the fries from Fourth & 4th.

Fourth & 4th: Go for the atmosphere — and fries

This eatery exudes a welcoming vibe

LunchRush

Blaine Schlechter
blaine.schlechter@metronews.ca

Fourth & 4th
503 4th Ave. SW
403-233-8500

Popular dish: Ranch House Chicken Club
Hours of operation: Mon. to Fri. (6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.)
Rating: 🌐🌐 **(out of 5)**
Reservations: Available
Client negotiations: No
Lunch w/co-workers: Yes
Social Lunch: Yes
Quick solo lunch: No
Time in: 12:55 p.m.
Ordered: 1:04 p.m.
Food arrived: 1:18 p.m.
Time out: 1:48 p.m.
Total time: 53 min
Low $: Classic Caesar Salad, $9.25
High $: Barbecue Rib Eye Steak, $18.99
Lunch menu: No, daily features
Licensed: Yes

The next stop on the Lunch Rush tour was a restaurant located on the corner of 4th Street and 4th Avenue that's called, conveniently, Fourth & 4th.

I must admit that upon entering the premises I was a little confused. Fourth & 4th seems conflicted in its identity.

It could be a diner, what with its regular patrons and counter seating. It could be a lounge, given the VLT signs and television behind the counter. Or it could be a café, with friendly wait staff who make you feel at home.

But I felt like I was in a diner, so let's go with that.

The menu was made up of mostly salads, sandwiches, pizzas and a few standard hot entrees, like fish and chips and lasagna.

On the recommendation of the waitress I chose the most popular item, the Ranch House Chicken Club ($12.50).

The sandwich itself didn't excite me but the fries sure did.

They not only had a mouth-watering aroma and a homemade taste — they even reminded me of my small town hockey-rink fries, which are still my fave.

In the competitive downtown market, Fourth & 4th may not be the best place to impress an important new client. Where it does excel is in creating a welcoming ambiance.

That translates into a good lunch experience for you and a couple of peers or a more sociable client.

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transat HOLIDAYS

* No purchase necessary. Legal age of majority in the province of residence. Rules and contest entry forms on cantoncanada.com

ABC cancels three shows
ABC has opted not to order additional episodes of Pushing Daisies, Eli Stone and Dirty Sexy Money for this season. The network isn't commenting, but multiple sources confirm that all three shows have effectively been cancelled. **EW.COM**

SAG to seek strike mandate

STRIKE The main union representing U.S. film and television actors said Saturday it would seek a strike authorization vote by members after federal mediation failed to break a logjam in labour talks with major Hollywood studios. The Screen Actors Guild, which represents 120,000 performers across the United States, said in a statement Saturday that no timeline had been set for a vote, which would give SAG leaders the go-ahead to call for a work stoppage and provide leverage in negotiations.

REUTERS

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metro
Do it daily.

Even TV feels the financial chill

IntelleVision

NO ONE LOVES YOU WHEN YOU'RE DOWN AND OUT: For as long as I've been writing this column, CTV's upfront presentation has been the big event of the local TV calendar, an expensive, high-profile media event where the network takes over a marquee Toronto venue (the Royal Alexandra Theatre, the Sony and Four Seasons performing arts centres) to bang the drum for their newly acquired roster of shows and the continuing success of old ones.

Under CTV boss Ivan Fecan, the network's business strategy has been easy to summarize: Invest in local product prudently with halfhearted hopes that you'll get a homegrown hit, while throwing lots of money at U.S. producers to get simulcast rights for the primetime hours.

It worked well enough for main competitor Global to be obligated to do much the same thing, but like everything else that's going on in this chilly, anxious fall-into-winter season of change, it's looking like an artifact from another time.

A front page article in the National Post's financial section this past weekend eulogized the Fecan era while the man still occupies his office, after the network's parent company, CTVglobemedia, announced a major round of cutbacks to staff and budgets last week.

Fecan's "spend money to make money" philosophy "is now facing grave uncertainty," according to the Post, and Fecan delivered an address to employees nationwide on Wednesday "warning of impending layoffs and a freeze on travel and entertainment spending at CTV Inc., the country's largest private broadcaster."

Precise details of what's going on at CTV or its parent company aren't easy to divine, thanks to its status as a private company with a small number of large shareholders that doesn't have to publish financial information. So we'll have to watch how precisely it intends to weather the current economic downturn across a variety of media, but the fate of CTV, its flagship brand, will be watched closest of all.

"A front page article in the National Post's financial section this past weekend eulogized the Fecan era while the man still occupies his office, after the network's parent company, CTVglobemedia, announced a major round of cutbacks to staff and budgets last week."

What went wrong is easy to figure out when you read news like ABC's cancellation of three of its primetime shows, all of them once part of CTV's buying sprees down south.

The Canadian network's website no longer puts Pushing Daisies, Eli Stone or Dirty Sexy Money front and centre — they aren't even on the list of shows linked off CTV's website front page — but they were all trophies brought home by Fecan and Susanne Boyd, his head of creative content, and showcased at recent upfronts.

In this light, CTV has never been the author of its own success, and probably doesn't have the thick cushion of money ABC can expect from Disney, its corporate parent, though it's unlikely that neither of them will escape the humbling fate due to media companies, now being accelerated by poor shows and a poorer economy.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

CA	Vu	SC		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
11/24/08 primetime	267	351	- ACCESS	Help TV		The Mentalist (HDTV) (N)		Sarah Connor Chronicles		Two/Half Men	Samantha Who	Help TV
	243	317	3 CFCN	etalk	Hollywood	CSI: Miami "Power Trip"		Dancing With the Stars			Corner Gas (N)	News (N)
	-	-	4 BROAD	(4) Broadcast News News.		Broadcast News News.						
	-	371	5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Dancing With the Stars (HDTV)			Samantha Who	Boston Legal
	245	306	6 CBRT	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Dragon's Den (N)		The Border (HDTV) (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	244	338	7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	Prison Break "Selfless"		My Own Worst Enemy		Heroes (HDTV) (N)		News Hour
	246	-	8 CKAL	Law & Order: SVU		Celebrity Fit Club		Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Curb-Enthsm	Less-Kind	Your City
	119	705	9 CBXFT	Virginie (SC)	La Petite vie	L'Auberge du chien noir (SC)		Hauts		Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)		TJ Alberta
	-	-	10 SHAW	(6) Local Programming						Local Programming		
	-	372	12 KREM	News (N)	Hollywood	The Doctors		Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Worst Week	CSI: Miami (N)
	-	374	14 KSPS	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Jack Benny	'Allo, 'Allo!	Antiques Roadshow		*The Rape of Europa* (2006, Documentary)		
	502	390	15 CBC	CBC News: The National		Stolen Babies, Stolen Lives (N)		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		Stolen Babies
	-	370	16 KHQ	News (N)	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Heroes (HDTV) (N)		Worst Enemy
	-	373	22 KAYU	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Sarah Connor Chronicles		Prison Break "Selfless"		News (N)
	297	652	37 WPIX	One Tree Hill (HDTV) (N)		CW11 News at Ten (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	According-Jim
news	500	500	29 CNN	Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	508	502	31 CNN2	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Nancy Grace		Showbiz Tonight		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Nancy Grace
sports	400	400	21 TSN	(6:30) NFL Football Green Bay Packers at New Orleans Saints.					SportsCentre		Poker	E:60 (N)
	408	418	27 net	Hockey: Canada Russia Chall.		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Hockey Central	Flames Week	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Best-Sports
	410	403	30 SCORE	(7:15) WWE Monday Night Raw				(9:15) Score Tonight		WWE Monday Night Raw		
	411	457	44 OLN	Mantracker		Departures		Pilot Guides		Don't Forget Your Passport		The Academy
	417	406	48 SPEED	My Classic Car	My Classic Car	Barrett-Jackson		Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	SuperCars	SuperCars	My Classic Car
family	552	543	20 YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Improve.	Malcolm-Mid.	Fresh Prince	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.
	557	541	39 FAM	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School
	555	545	67 TOON	6teen (DVS)	Total Drama	George-Jungle	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	American Dad
cable variety	575	583	11 CMT	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Gone Country		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba
	553	546	17 TREE	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears	Babar	Backyardigans	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!
	-	-	18 CHTV	The Insider (N)	E! News	(8:02) Boston Legal		Name Is Earl	How I Met	How I Met	Worst Week	News (N)
	505	398	19 TWN	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two				
	602	568	23 W	House	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	How Clean	House	Love It or List It (N)		Confidential
	521	560	24 TLC	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	17 Kids-Count	17 Kids-Count	Little People	Little People	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	17 Kids-Count
	603	561	25 FOOD	Good Eats	Ace of Cakes	Kitchen Nightmares		Restaurant Makeover		Challenge		Good Eats
	615	520	26 A&E	Intervention (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48		Intervention "Ashley"		Intervention
	617	522	32 SHOW	Prime Suspect 6: Last Witness		Love-Death	Love-Death	Painkiller Jane		Kenny-Spenny	Rent-A-Goalie	Name Is Earl
	601	562	33 SLICE	Beautiful	Party Mamas	Project Runway "Finale Part 1"		Til Debt-Part	Newlywed	Beautiful	Party Mamas	Runway
	-	633	34 ENC2	*Karmina (1996)*		(7:20) *The Car* ★★ (1977, Horror)		*Cujo* ★★★ (1983, Horror) Dee Wallace.			(10:35) *Poltergeist* (1982)	
	520	505	35 DISC	Dirty Jobs		Canada's Worst Driver		Daily Planet		Dirty Jobs		Worst Driver
	620	523	36 BRAVO	Bravonews	Year of Lion	Perreault Dancer		Law & Order "Marathon"		Without a Trace		*The Mystic*
	294	650	40 WPCH	(6) *Selena* ★★★ (1997, Biography)			Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld	*Selena* ★★★ (1997, Biography)		
	626	547	41 COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jeff Dunham
	-	539	42 TCM	(6) *Mutiny on the Bounty*		(8:15) *Witness for the Prosecution* (1957, Drama)				(10:15) *The Bribe* (1949, Crime Drama)		
	628	584	43 SPIKE	(6) *Star Wars: Episode II -- Attack of the Clones* (2002)				CSI: NY (HDTV)		CSI: NY "Grand Master"		Trek: Voyager
	522	516	45 HIST	Underworld Histories		NCIS "Pop Life"		Battle 360		Underworld Histories		NCIS
	627	528	46 SPACE	Battlestar Galactica		Eureka "I Do Over"		Stargate SG-1		Lost "Two for the Road"		Deep Space 9
	-	-	47 AMC	(6) *The Hustler* ★★★ (1961, Drama) Paul Newman.				*The Hunt for Red October* ★★★ (1990, Suspense) Sean Connery.				
	619	525	49 TROP	News Show	News Show	TV Made, Do It	Very Bad Men		What Happen?	Make or Break	TV Made, Do It	Planet Soap
	600	564	50 HGTV	Property Virgin	Marriage	Income Prop.	House Hunters	Holmes on Homes		Property Virgin	Marriage	Income Prop.
	501	391	52 CTV	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
	504	508	70 BNN	Squeeze Play		Market Call		Headline	Market Call	Berman's Call	Money Talks	Squeeze Play
	526	507	92 VIVA	The West Wing		Truth, Duty, Valour		Mediums	In Dreams	Judging Amy		Commander
	269	350	93 APTN	MYTV	The Mix	La Voix Mechif	Metcom	Nedaa: Your Eye on the Yukon		Suaangan	Sharing Circle	Cowboy C'try
	-	-	94 MCP	(6:30) News	News	Matchmaker	Mom's-Upset	It Will Be Difficult to Love		Marimar		Pinoy-Entertain
	571	581	100 MMM	Coolio's Rules		Parental Advis.	Revival	Party of Five		Parental Advis.	Revival	Party of Five
	570	580	101 MM	50 Cent: Money and Power		MuchNews	The NewMusic	MuchVibe		You Can Dance		Dance
	581	566	102 MTV	Super Sweet	The Hills	The Hills	After Show	MTV Live	MTV News	Exiled	The Hills	The Hills

Guns N' Roses not bringing Democracy to mainland China

MUSIC Guns N' Roses fans in China will have to go underground to get their hands on a copy of the band's first album in 17 years, Chinese Democracy, which was released worldwide yesterday.

The rock band's Geffen Records label said Friday, "It is unlikely we will be approved to release the album in Mainland China."

China's culture ministry has the final say on such matters, although rampant piracy makes the job difficult.

The title track might raise some eyebrows. Evidently addressing China's communist leadership, lead singer Axl Rose says followers of the outlawed Falun Gong spiritual movement have "seen the end and you can't hold on now."

The artwork includes Beijing artist Shi Lifeng's 2008 oil painting Red Star, which depicts the powerlessness of Chinese people in a state ruled by an iron fist. Photos of the Chinese military and the Hong Kong skyline also appear in the album's artwork.

REUTERS

critics'corner

Heroes
After reuniting Sylar and Elle, Arthur orders them to find Claire and bring her to him. Matt, Hiro and Ando then team up and follow Daphne to her hometown of Athens, Ga., to discover what she's been hiding. Meanwhile, Nathan and Peter head to Haiti. 10 PM on CICT, KHQ

Faerie Queen
If you've sat through "The Nutcracker" without being bored to tears, you might be ready for this enjoyable production from 2003, choreographed by John Alleyne and performed by Ballet British Columbia. Based on Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," it's an exuberant, whimsical tale of love, mischief and magic. Alan Burke directs. 6 PM on BRAVO

Boston Legal
The good side of the wishbone can only do so much. Shirley Schmidt's intimate Thanksgiving get-together with Carl Sack turns into a dysfunctional family affair when she invites Alan, Denny, Jerry and Katie as well as the emotionally unstable Edwin (Larry Miller) and his 6-year-old foster child — who tried to mug her. 8:02 PM on CHTV; 11:02 PM on KXLY

Kurkova deemed sexiest
Karolina Kurkova has been deemed World's Sexiest Woman. E! Entertainment Television bestowed the honour on the model. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Barker files lawsuit

LEGAL Travis Barker has filed a lawsuit blaming the pilots and defective equipment for a plane crash that severely injured the rocker and DJ AM and killed four other people, People.com reports.

The L.A. Superior Court lawsuit, also filed Friday by the mother of Barker's bodyguard, Charles (Che) Still, who died in the crash, alleges the pilots "negligently decided to abort" the takeoff when the Learjet's tires failed in September at an airport in Columbia, S.C.

"The pilots were either poorly trained and/or failed to follow their training," the suit says. "The pilots' decision was a breach of their duty owed to the passengers onboard and was a substantial factor in causing the crash and resultant injuries and deaths."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Reese not ready for another marriage

RELATIONSHIPS Reese Witherspoon thinks it is too soon to think about marrying boyfriend Jake Gyllenhaal, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 32-year-old actress, who has two children with ex-husband Ryan Phillippe, admits divorce has changed her opinions about the institution of marriage.

"Family is all we have in life, but I don't know how I feel about marriage," she said. "Obviously, I'm not far enough out of being married to think about doing it again. You sort of reconstitute your family. You find a family with people who come into your life for a reason."

Witherspoon, who has never revealed the reasons for her divorce, also revealed she always vowed not to "lay blame" on Phillippe for their relationship breakdown.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Maguire's wife is pregnant

FAMILY Another gem is on the way for Tobey Maguire and his wife, Jennifer Meyer, People.com reports.

The couple — already parents to Ruby, 2 — are expecting a second child in the spring, the actor's rep Kelly Bush confirms to People.

"I love being a dad!" the three-time Spider-Man star, 33, told People when Ruby was just six months old. He and Meyer, 31, met in 2003 and married in September 2007.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jessica loves new aunt role

FAMILY Jessica Simpson is ecstatic about her latest role — aunt to newborn Bronx Mowgli Wentz, People.com reports.

"Bronx is beyond precious. I'm over the moon with joy," the singer said Friday. "Life is a beautiful miracle. Ashlee and Pete are healthy, happy and enjoying every moment."

Singer Ashlee Simpson-Wentz and husband Pete Wentz welcomed their first child on Thursday night.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sweetin files for separation

SPLIT Former Full House star and new mom Jodie Sweetin is splitting with her husband, People.com reports. Sweetin, 26, filed papers Wednesday in Orange County, Calif., for legal separation from Cody Herpin, 31, who helped turn around her life after years of methamphetamine addiction.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Penn helps ex Madonna

RELATIONSHIPS Madonna is doing her best to get through her split from husband Guy Ritchie, with a little help from ex-husband Sean Penn, People.com reports a source close to the singer as saying.

"It's a sad situation, but she's not heartbroken," says the source, who saw the 50-year-old icon hours before a London court granted the couple a preliminary "quickie divorce" on Friday. "She's handling it well."

Madonna is focusing on her work and her children to keep her mind off the end of her nearly eight-year marriage to Ritchie, says the source. "She's got a very busy life."

Also helping her through the tough time is her ex-husband. The singer and Penn were spotted having drinks at the Greenwich Hotel in Manhattan on Wednesday night.

"They have a nice rapport," says the source. "There's nothing romantic there. They're just good friends."

METRO NEWS SERVICES
GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Williams asks to grieve in peace

PEOPLE Actress Michelle Williams has slammed the paparazzi for refusing to let her grieve in peace following the death of her ex-boyfriend Heath Ledger in January, imdb.com reports

In her first indepth interview since the tragedy, the actress tells the upcoming issue of Newsweek magazine she'll never forgive the disrespectful snappers who have made her life a misery in the past year — and she won't forget them.

Williams tells the publication she was particularly disturbed with the efforts some photographers went to just to get a photo of her young daughter Matilda.

"It burns a fire inside of me, the s--- that I've seen people do to get at me or my daughter," she says. "I won't forget it, and I won't support it. I don't want my daughter growing up feeling spied on or threatened."

And it was one encounter with an over-zealous female paparazzo, which tipped Williams over the edge.

"I said, 'You're better than this. Look at you! You're young, you're able-bodied, you have a brightness in your eyes. You're above this.' But you know what? She didn't go away," Williams adds.

The intrusion has prompted Williams to seriously think about leaving her home in New York and walking away from her acting career.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Beyonce/Jay-Z high earners

PEOPLE Beyonce Knowles and Jay-Z have been named Hollywood's highest-earning couple, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The married pair topped the list compiled by Forbes magazine after collectively making $162 million US between June 1, 2007 and June 1, 2008.

Hip-hop star Jay-Z pocketed $82 million from a 10-year deal with Live Nation, while Beyonce raked in $80 million from film, fashion and publishing deals.

Actors Will Smith and Jada Pinkett-Smith finished second place in the list, with earnings of $85 million.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ivanka signs on for book deal

CAREER Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka Trump is on the fast-track to building her own business empire, after signing a deal to publish a new book, imdb.com reports.

The 26-year-old former model, who holds an executive office at the Trump Organization, has signed on with publishers at Simon & Schuster to write a motivational book, reports the New York Post.

"My father always impressed upon me the idea that America is a meritocracy and that you must work for everything you get," she says. She adds she hopes to share a "positive perspective with the women of my generation."

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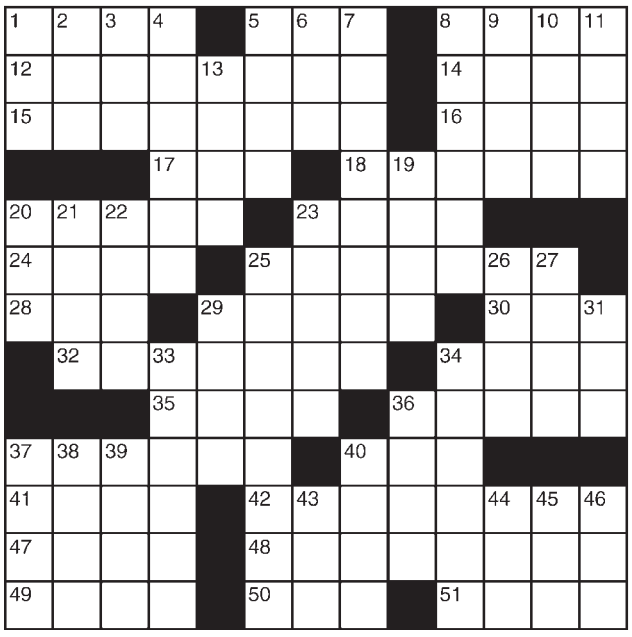
Today Partly cloudy 9 C / -4 C
Tuesday Partly cloudy 7 C / -4 C
Wednesday Sunny 3 C / -5 C

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Andrew Schultz, Weather Specialist – Breakfast Television
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta." **WEEKDAYS AT 6 AM**

Take Five



Crossword across

1 Nessie's home, for one
5 Banned insecticide
8 Post-bout apparel
12 Examination
14 Watched
15 Reverie
16 Repair
17 Speck
18 Open square, in Italy
20 With fervor
23 Poolroom prop
24 Reed instrument
25 Ray of light
28 Glutton
29 Play the banjo
30 Craze
32 Wrestling format
34 Dwindle
35 Get better
36 Shakespeare's Kate
37 Jewish village
40 Pair
41 Harbour city
42 Ben & Jerry's product
47 Settled down
48 Choker, e.g.
49 Interoffice note
50 Earth (Prefix)
51 Mulligan —

Crossword down

1 Hallucinogen letters
2 Goose, in Guadalajara
3 Weep
4 Football conference?
5 Regimen
6 "CSI" find
7 Middle ear membrane
8 Updated movie
9 Courtroom call
10 Mercedes- —
11 Icelandic epic
13 Helen's home
19 Cold War missile
20 Short flight
21 Newspaper notice
22 Forum garb
23 Not urban
25 Thief's task
26 Somewhere out there
27 Lion's pride?
29 Undo a dele
31 Morning moisture
33 Certain city area
34 Fingerprint spirals
36 Use a straw
37 Junk e-mail
38 Golf goal
39 Slender
40 Erte's style of art
43 Bee follower
44 Chow down
45 Expert
46 Kitten's call

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

3		4				2		5
	1		4		5		7	
7			9		2			1
		9	5		1	7		
		8	2		6	1		
9			7		8			6
	5		3		9		8	
2		7				3		9

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

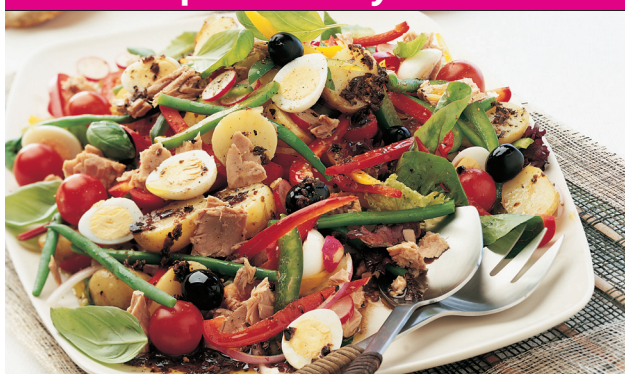
B	A	R	■	T	H	I	S	■	R	I	M	S		
I	V	E	■	A	U	T	O	■	I	D	E	A		
C	A	S	H	C	R	O	P	■	Y	O	R	K		
■	■	T	A	I	L	■	■	V	A	L	V	E		
S	L	A	N	T	■	S	L	I	D	■	■	■		
H	A	T	S	■	S	M	A	S	H	H	I	T		
A	V	E	■	S	P	A	C	E	■	O	B	I		
H	A	S	H	M	A	R	K	■	S	N	I	P		
■	■	■	A	U	N	T	■	G	U	E	S	S		
W	R	O	N	G	■	■	R	A	C	Y	■	■		
H	A	R	K	■	T	R	A	S	H	B	I	N		
O	N	C	E	■	W	O	K	S	■	E	V	E		
S	T	A	R	■	O	B	E	Y	■	E	Y	E		

4	8	5	3	9	7	2	1	6
9	6	2	4	1	5	3	8	7
3	1	7	6	2	8	4	9	5
2	9	8	7	5	6	1	4	3
6	3	1	2	4	9	5	7	8
7	5	4	1	8	3	6	2	9
5	4	9	8	6	2	7	3	1
8	2	3	5	7	1	9	6	4
1	7	6	9	3	4	8	5	2

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Tuna and Bell Pepper Salad

INGREDIENTS:
12 oz (200 mL) new potatoes
2 oz (240 mL) thin green beans
4 small eggs
8 oz (130 mL) mixed salad leaves
1 tbsp (15 mL) chopped parsley
1 tbsp (15 mL) snipped fresh chives
1 small red onion, thinly sliced
1 tbsp (15 mL) tapenade (black olive paste)
2 garlic cloves, chopped
2 tbsp (25 mL) extra-virgin olive oil
1 tbsp (15 mL) red-wine vinegar
1 tsp (5 mL) balsamic vinegar
10 to 15 radishes, thinly sliced
1 can water-packed tuna, drained
3 oz (40 mL) cherry tomatoes
1 red bell pepper, seeded and thinly sliced
1 yellow bell pepper, seeded and thinly sliced
1 green bell pepper, seeded and thinly sliced
8 black olives
Salt and fresh-ground black pepper
Fresh basil leaves

METHOD:
1. Place potatoes in a saucepan and cover with boiling water. Boil over medium heat 10 minutes. Add beans and continue boiling until potatoes are tender and beans are just cooked, about 5 minutes longer. Drain well; set aside to cool.
2. Bring a medium saucepan of water to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to medium, add eggs, and from the time the water starts to simmer cook 10 minutes. Rinse eggs in cold water, peel and place in cold water.
3. Toss salad leaves with parsley, chives and red onion in a large, shallow bowl.
4. For dressing, beat tapenade with garlic, olive oil, red-wine vinegar and balsamic vinegar in a small bowl, and season with salt and pepper to taste. Pour two-thirds dressing over salad leaves and toss together.
5. Halve potatoes and arrange on top of leaves with green beans, radishes, tuna chunks, tomatoes, bell peppers and olives. Halve eggs and add to salad. Pour remaining dressing over and sprinkle with basil leaves.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Make the first move in a new friendship. A man offers to buy your assets. Don't loosen up in the presence of a known critic.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Hide your true feelings for a former love. Believe only half of what you hear. Shoulder pain reveals a strain.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
There's no need to teach anyone a lesson. Management will make a special deal. A tiresome person really doesn't care about you.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Make up your mind to get going with your life. Say important things with candor. A scrumptious treat will bring friends together.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Happiness is the result of being understood. You were born to be wild. Open your heart to an Aquarian.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A stubborn person slows down your progress. A stranger improves your mood. You'll solve the mystery of love.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A powerful experience will change your attitude. A selfish guy makes you grit your teeth. Boundary issues will be upsetting.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Take care around hot things. Having an observant approach will save you time. A childish person wants emotional support.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Try to understand somebody's ridiculous viewpoint. You'll get insight into a stressful situation. A perfectionist is changed by falling in love.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Pay attention to a demanding spoilsport. There's a rough assignment ahead. Benefits are in store when a friend helps out.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
You're getting restless again. A ludicrous promise is just a bit alarming. You'll be standoffish with disgusting people.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A patient person has a balanced approach. See a doctor if a minor illness won't go away. A narrow-minded person hurts another's feelings.

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